



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**U.S. CHARGES FORMER NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EXECUTIVE WITH EMBEZZLEMENT**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today that IMEH JONES, the former Fiscal Administrator of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's ("DOH") Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Program ("MIHRP"), was charged in Manhattan federal court with embezzling over \$120,000 from MIHRP. JONES was the Fiscal Administrator for MIHRP from 1993 to 2002.

According to the Complaint, which was unsealed today, from approximately July 1999 through June 2001, JONES allegedly generated approximately 40 fraudulent invoices and bills from a catering company called "E.G. Marcus" for services that were never rendered.

The Complaint alleges that JONES submitted these invoices and bills to the Internal Accounting Unit at DOH with memoranda purportedly prepared by the Program Manager for MIRHP

requesting that payments be made to E.G. Marcus for catering services provided at various conferences, training events, and workshops conducted by MIRHP. According to the Complaint, a majority of the events for which E.G. Marcus supposedly provided catering services in fact never took place. In a number of instances where DOH events in fact did take place on the dates specified in the memoranda, E.G. Marcus catering services were not used.

The Complaint goes on to allege that the requests for payment for E.G. Marcus were all approved and E.G. Marcus was paid a total of \$103,182.78 by the City of New York for the catering services it supposedly provided. According to DOH records, the City of New York issued 40 separate checks to E.G. Marcus and each check was picked up and signed for by IMEH JONES.

The Complaint alleges that the mailing address for E.G. Marcus was a P.O. Box opened by JONES.

In a separate count, the Complaint further charges that JONES fraudulently obtained and without authority knowingly converted to his own use a check issued by New York City on behalf of DOH in the amount of \$17,850. In July 2001, JONES allegedly signed three time sheets in the name of a former DOH consultant and submitted these time sheets together with a memorandum approving payment to the consultant. According to the Complaint, JONES then personally retrieved and signed for the check issued by New York City payable to the consultant in the

amount of \$17,850.

JONES, 45, was arrested this morning, is scheduled to be presented before United States Magistrate Judge Douglas F. Eaton later today.

If convicted, JONES faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.

MR. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the New York City Department of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney KAREN B. KONIGSBERG is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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